

THE CHICAGO, "I WILL" PERFINS
by. Albert Spencer, Perfin Club Member #1261

Some time ago in the PERFIN BULLETIN there was a discussion about the Chicago, "I WILL" perfins (# I-116 - I-119.5).

Wanting to know more about it because of special musical philatelic interests, this writer queried our good librarian Floyd Walker for suggestions. He suggested writing the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. This the writer did (enclosing a SAE). The letter was turned over to the Chicago Historical Society which really extended itself in courtesy and helpfulness in providing the following information along with photo-stats of the sheet music of the Chicago, "I WILL" song.

Chicago's official motto is Urbs in Horto, meaning "City in a Garden". Many people think, however, that the city's motto is "I WILL", which has become, over the years, an unofficial motto for Chicago.

"I WILL" came about because of a contest held in 1892 by the Chicago Inter-Ocean newspaper. The paper offered prizes to artists submitting drawings personifying the spirit of Chicago, in honor of the World's Colombian Exposition.

Among the hundreds of drawings submitted, the judges picked that of Charles Holloway, of Chicago, for first place. His drawing showed a youthful, energestic looking woman in classical garb. She had a leather strap on her wrist, similar to those worn by athletes for muscle reinforcement, and she held a carpenter's square next to her hip. On her head was the crown of the Phoenix, the legendary bird that rose from the ashes, as Chicago did after the 1871 fire. But the most striking feature was the woman's breastplate, which bore the words "I WILL". This struck the city's fancy, and has remained Chicago's unofficial motto.

Holloway said that the idea for "I WILL" came from an old saying that popped into his head as he was creating the drawing - "When a woman says she will you may depend on it". His knowledge of literature was faulty, however, since the actual statement comes from a line in a play written by Aaron Hill, an 18th Century English author, "First a woman will or won't depend on't. If she will do it, she will, and there's an end on't."

The song was written in 1906. The cover of the sheet music is headed, "Chicago says "I WILL". It is illustrated with a drawing of a classically garbed lady, "Chicago", helping to her feet (from the ruins of a Greek

styled building) another female figure also in classic garb and labelled, "San Francisco". "Special Donation to the San Francisco Sufferers' Fund" is noted on the cover, thus referring to the San Francisco earthquake in 1906.

Words of the song are by James E. Callahan. Music is by Lon Dinsmore. The verses and chorus are as follows:

" March on Chicago - March along to everlasting fame;
With energy and charity, surround thy glorious name.
March on Chicago - March along, add laurels to thy crown;
Keep pressing on with loyalty- March on old Dearborn town.-

March on Chicago - March along to greatness now unknown;
With enterprise and honesty, Enshrine each building stone.
March on Chicago - March along, Augment thy fair renown,
Expanding East, North, South and West, March on old Dearborn town.

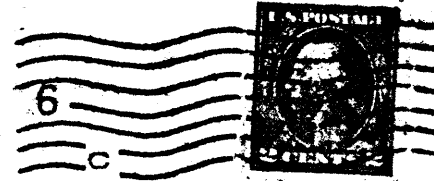
And when in sorrow or in pain, We find our fellow man,
Tis then Chicago's at the front, She'll do the best she can;
For stricken friend or fallen foe, May then look up- not down,
Humanity is broad indeed, in good old Dearborn town.

Chorus:

Marching on - North, South, East and West ,
Marching on - We never think of rest.
Forward March - Climb up glory's hill;
Give us room, Columbia, Chicago says, "I WILL".

With all this background, the Chicago "I WILL" perfins have now become well known, treasured friends. They now have a distinct personality and a fascinating history. The writer has had a wonderfully rewarding time tracking down "MUSICAL PERFINs". Shortly there will be a completed article on the subject. Especially gratifying has been the unselfish help and response of all the PERFIN CLUB officers and other members. Truly, it is among the friendliest of philatelic groups!

DEPARTMENT OF SMOKE INSPECTION
CITY OF CHICAGO



DEPARTMENT FOR THE INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS
UNFIRED PRESSURE VESSELS AND COOLING PLANTS

119 NORTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO 2, ILL.



I
WILL

ADVANCE EDITION

Chicago says "I Will"



40

Words by
James E. Callahan

SONG

Music by
Lon Dinsmore

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SPECIAL DONATION TO SAN FRANCISCO SUFFERERS' FUND

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CHICAGO SAYS, "I WILL"

Words by JAMES E. CALLAHAN

Music by LON DINSMORE

Allo' non troppo



March on Chi-ca - go_ March a - long To ev - er - last - ing fame; With
March on Chi-ca - go_ March a - long To great-ness now un - known; With
And when in sor - row or in pain We find our fel - low man, Tis



en - er - gy and char - i - ty Sur - round thy glo - rious name. March
en - ter - prise and hon - est - y En - shrine each build - ing stone. March
then Chi - ca - go's at the front She'll do the best she can For





on Chi - ca - go_ March a - long Add lau - rels to thy crown: Keep
on Chi - ca - go_ March a - long Aug - ment thy fair re - nown. Ex -
strick-en friend or fal - len foe May then look up - not down Hu -



press-ing on with loy - al - ty_ March on old Dear-born town._
pand-ing East, North, South and West, March on old Dear-born town._
man - i - ty is broad in - deed In good old Dear-born town._



colla voce

Chorus



— March - ing on — North, South, East and West —



March - ing on: _____ We nev - er think of rest. _____

For - ward March, _____ Climb up glo - ry's hill: _____

Give us room, Co - lum - bi - a, Chi - ca - go says "I Will." _____

colla voce

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Clark Street at North Avenue

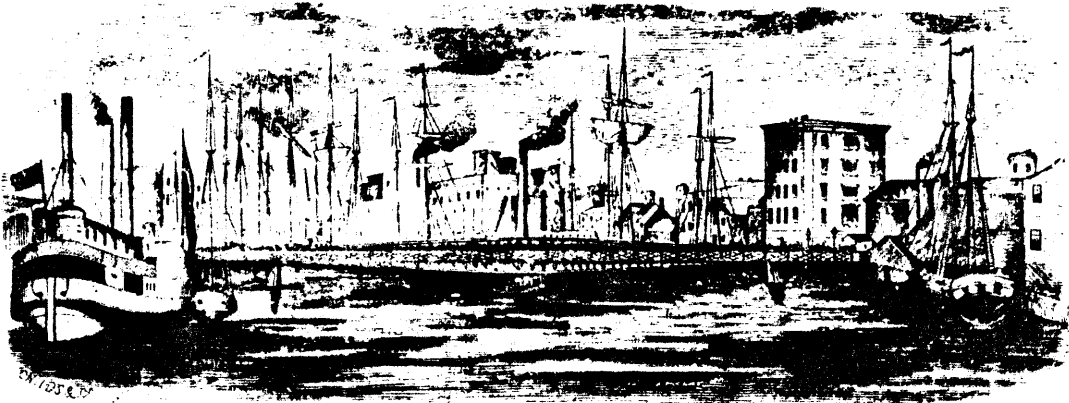
Chicago, Illinois 60614

The Chicago Historical Society is a privately endowed institution with limited financial resources and a small staff. Increasing use of our research library has made it necessary to utilize this form letter to answer mail inquiries. We can, however, provide better service if you are able to visit the Society. Our library is open to anyone of high school age or older from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Tuesday through Saturday.

The information or material you requested:

1. ___ is not available in our library.
2. ___ could not be located after making a search of standard references or the Society's special research files.
3. ___ may be available but would require extensive research which unfortunately we are unable to do.
4. ___ is available for your use here at the Society but cannot be supplied by mail. Our books do not circulate.
5. ___ is available for purchase from our Museum Sales Desk.
6. ___ may be obtained from commercial dealers. Addresses of such firms can usually be found in the classified telephone directory or from your local library.
7. ___ should be available from public or school libraries in your area or from your state historical library.
8. X is enclosed.
9. X The enclosed information sheet explains the origin of the "I Will" motto. Also enclosed are the words and music to two songs ("Chicago: City of Destiny" and "Chicago Says 'I Will'"), which make use of the "I Will" motto.

Your letter was referred to us by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry.



Founded 1856

CLARK STREET BRIDGE, 1856

Telephone MICHigan 2-4600

CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY · *Clark Street at North Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60614*

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August 14, 1975

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Thank you very much for your check donation of \$5.00 and for the sample "I Will" stamp perforation. Of the two pieces of sheet music we sent you the one entitled "Chicago Says 'I Will'" is dated 1906 and consequently out of copyright. The other entitled "Chicago: City of Destiny" is dated 1921 and consequently would be under copyright protection for 56 years or until after 1977. The publisher was a Dr. E. L. Fernall, 4803 Lincoln, Chicago. We have no information about him. While copyright determination is your responsibility, you have our permission to reproduce the pieces in question.

Sincerely,

Reference Librarian

Mr. Albert Spencer
P. O. Box #6
Angelus Oaks, California 92305

LV:rp

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